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Library System News

Summer 2016

Library System News, Summer 2016

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Library System News

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Virginia's Community Colleges

Volume 7 Issue 1 - Summer 2016

From the Director

In keeping with this year's theme of transition, here is the first-ever summer issue of Library System News.

Since becoming Director of Library Services in March, the days have been a whirlwind of new tasks and responsibilities, and I sincerely appreciate all of the kind words and messages that have come my way. I am pleased to serve in this humble role and look forward to productive, collaborative, and exciting times ahead for VCCS Libraries.

This year, our newly-formed Aleph Transition Team (Charles Lewis (SO), Jacque Dessino (TCC), Susan Lawlor (TNCC), and Jacqueline Carrell (PVCC)) has proven effective, and I offer this team a huge thank you for volunteering their time and expertise to support system operations.

The spring term brought a

significant update to our Gale Virtual Reference Library Nursing e-book titles, one more round of IPEDS Academic Libraries reporting delivered on time, and another great Peer Group Meeting.

This summer, we welcome Emily Altman to the System Office as our new Coordinator (see p. 2), and look forward to state-wide developments related to VIVA membership in the Open Textbook Network (see p. 10).

In other VIVA news, please congratulate our three new

committee representatives:

- Steve Litherland (TCC), Steering Committee
- Maria Fesz (NVCC), Collections Committee
- Jacqueline Carrell (PVCC), Resource Sharing Committee.

-Tara Cassidy

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Introducing the VCCS Coordinator of Library Systems Administration

Contact Emily at the VCCS System Office:

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Greetings Colleagues,

I am extremely pleased to be joining VCCS as the Coordinator of Library Systems Administration. I am coming to VCCS after four years as Systems Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries.

There, I was primarily responsible for supporting discovery in Primo, resolving electronic access issues, and providing administrative support for the Alma library services platform, which VCU implemented as early-

adopters in October 2012.

Outside of libraries, I enjoy singing, sewing, and enjoying the always ex-

panding food and beer options around Richmond. I also like hanging out with my husband and our two pups, Tula and Zoe.

I am looking forward to meeting colleagues, learning about your



Emily Owens Altman, VCCS Coordinator of Library Systems Administration

libraries and LRCs, and figuring out how I can best support library staff and patrons. I hope to meet many of you in coming weeks and months, but feel free to contact me earlier if you have a question or just want to say 'hi'.

Save the Date



Deadline to submit articles to Virginia Libraries Journal	Aug. 1
OER Workshop & Z-Degree Panel, WCC	Sep. 30
OER Workshop & Z-Degree Panel, MECC	Oct. 14
edUI , Charlottesville, VA	Oct. 24-26
VLA Annual Conference, Hot Springs, VA	Oct. 26-28
OpenEd 016, Richmond VA	Nov. 2-4

NVCC Medical Education Campus Library Beats the Blizzard



When snow storms hit and campuses close, students and faculty do not always get to take a break from their schoolwork. During Winter Storm Jonas, which dropped between 18 to 29 inches of snow on the DC Metro area, the campuses of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) were closed from January 21st through January 29th, 2016.

During this time, faculty and staff at the Medical Education Campus Library worked to make sure students and faculty were still supported even if they were snowed in.

During normal operation, the Medical Education Campus Library faculty and staff support students and faculty through reference services, library instruction classes, and many other methods.

When the campuses are closed, services remain the same, with some adjustments.

While online reference services are always available to students, Medical Education Campus librarians took on extra shifts during the snow storm in order to help students with whatever questions that they have. Likewise, librarians answered numerous emails from students and faculty, aiding with article location and reference questions.

Librarian Diane Kearney made herself available through both email and online chat for Dental Hygiene students during a DNH 142 class, providing research assistance for an upcoming project.

The library holds many instruction sessions and many scheduled sessions were affected by the snow. One in-

struction session for NUR 255 Nursing Management, was taught online from home by librarian Kristin Snawder, with 39 students attending. Other classes that were scheduled for in-person sessions, were rescheduled for the following weeks, with library staff shifting schedules to make sure all of the classes could come into the library.

During the school closure, librarians also aided EMS instructors by adding library resources directly to their Blackboard sites, ensuring that students had easy access to library materials and assistance as needed.

The Medical Education Campus Library also stayed connected by informing students through social media, both relaying information from official NOVA channels and posting library service updates. Through Twitter and Facebook, the library kept students abreast of clo-

Contributed by:

Kristin Snawder
User Experience
Librarian

**NVCC-Medical
Education Campus**

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Northern Virginia Libraries, continued

tures, library hours changes, and provided instructions for online reference services.

There were also several humorous blizzard related postings that aided in keeping spirits up. Students participated with the Libraries social media accounts through re-tweets, likes, and favorites.

The NOVA Libraries

strive to provide support to students, faculty, and staff no matter what the situation. So until the next snow storm, and during, see you in the library.

Collaborating to Support Student Research at the Germanna Libraries

Contributed by

**Erin Crane,
E-Resources and
Instruction Librarian
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College
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In early fall 2015 at Germanna Community College, Erin Crane, E-Resources and Instruction Librarian, noticed a research event scheduled on the Fredericksburg Campus. The event was the 2nd Annual Student Research and Writing Symposium sponsored by the GCC's History Department.

The judges would select six students to present on their research papers on October 22, 2015. In early October, the librarian contacted the coor-

dinators of the event and was able to arrange to acquire digital versions of the papers and place them in an online repository. By the end of October, the papers were available online.



Larger colleges and universities with more resources often use platforms like bepress's Digital Commons to host such content and have dedicated staff to manage them.

The E-Resources Librarian had experience with other platforms, such as [Omeka](#), which is a platform similar to paid solutions but with a level of free options.

As the focus for Germanna Libraries' repository is limited, the workload for maintaining it is minimal. Normally repositories also host other content such as faculty publications, but currently the Germanna Libraries do not seek to add that type of content to the platform.

Germannna Libraries, continued

Because the library involvement began before the students had submitted final papers, we were able to create a form that would gather information from the student upon submission.

The form included a statement of permission to post the paper in the online repository and a request for keywords to use for the paper's metadata.

Once the forms were signed, the event coordinator scanned them and emailed them to the library. After the event, the coordinator provided the research papers and the library uploaded them into the Omeka software.

The site had to be tweaked in various ways in order to present the papers in the most user-friendly way, but the process overall was simple.

The library posted an ad for the site on the library web site, and the coordinators of the research symposium expressed gratitude for the library's idea to save the papers and the resulting site. As

of the end of March 2016, the site had received 1,449 page views from 848 individual users. Usage can be tracked on Omeka sites with a Google analytics account.

This collaboration was a simple, positive way to bring library expertise to a campus level effort. It was a valuable way for the library to contribute because it highlighted that the library also supports high-quality student research and wants to recognize students who excel in it. Hopefully the library will continue to add to the site with more symposia in the coming years.

**GCC Annual Student
Research and
Writing Symposium:**

gccresearch.omeka.net

Slowly by Slowly: Lessons from Uganda

Excerpted from an email interview conducted by KC Frankenburger in summer 2016.

Mary Hanlin, former Tidewater and J.S. Reynolds Librarian, joined the Peace Corps in Fall 2015. She is stationed in Uganda for two years.

Tell us a little bit about what you're doing in Uganda.

I'm currently working as something called a Teacher Trainer at Jinja Primary Teacher's College (PTCs). In Uganda, students train to become primary school teachers for two years, and are expected to teach a variety of curriculum – math, music, English, physical education and reading. I focus on

teaching Jinja PTC students how to teach reading.

How did you decide to join the Peace Corps?

I decided to join Peace Corps mid-way

through my career as a librarian, because frankly I wasn't appreciating the life I had, and I worried that I wasn't growing and changing enough. I wanted to do some-

thing that challenged me and also changed me.

How did you prepare, mentally or otherwise, for the journey?

I am not really sure there's any good way to prepare mentally, but I did a lot of research about Uganda, and had a clear objective sense of what I was in for. Also, I could only bring 100 pounds of luggage, so I brooded deeply over what to bring and what to not bring.

A few things I'm really glad I brought: quick dry towels, computer, Kindle, iPhone, and



Map of Uganda., CIA World Fact Book. (Public domain image).



Mary, pictured with Ugandan children. (Image courtesy Mary Hanlin.)

Slowly, continued

my teddy bear. Who doesn't love an old lady with a teddy bear?

What did you know about Uganda before you left? How has that perception changed, or strengthened?

Sadly, not much. Of course, I knew about Idi Amin and the terrible harm he caused. I knew Uganda was on the equator so I assumed hot! I knew that Ugandans spoke many different native languages. That's about it.

In fact, Uganda is incredibly green, fertile and not outrageously hot (usually in the mid 80s but rarely above 90). It's not typically the "bush" that most people think when they think of a developing country: cell phones are the norm, though home computers are still rare.

Ugandans are incredibly patient and non-violent, willing to put up with so many more things than my American self is used to putting up with. They

have this saying: "mpola mpola," which means slowly by slowly. It means essentially we'll get there, but it's going to take a while.

Whenever I get frustrated with my language training, my teacher reminds me: "Mpola mpola." And she is right of course; I am getting there. Another Ugandan proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." That's the Ugandan way of life: everybody is always doing things together to get something done.

Tell us a little bit about the village you're living in. Tell us about your daily routine.

I live in the village of Wanyange which is 20 minutes outside of the town of Jinja (the source of the Nile). I get up at 6:45 every morning and do chores, such as fetch water, cook coffee over the gas stove, sweep my floor which is constantly dirty, bathe.

At 9:30 am I'm at school and I teach (11 classes a week). When I am not teaching, I am lesson planning and working in the library. I am usually home by 5 pm and typically the kids come over at 5:30 or 6 and we read or do coloring books until 7. Because I live on the equator, it gets dark almost exactly at 7 and I send the kids home then.

Read the full interview on the [Reynolds Library Blog](#).

The Virginia Library Leadership Academy (VALLA) Experience



Liz Walraven is the Library Specialist for Public Services at Eastern Shore Community College Library.

By: Elizabeth Walraven

I was recently given the opportunity to attend the 4th Virginia Library Leadership Academy (VALLA) sponsored by the Virginia Library Association Leadership Development Forum.



The program consists of two parts: a formal two-day workshop that focuses on developing leadership and management skills while helping participants gain confidence in their abilities and a year-long project that will serve to benefit participant's libraries in some way. While there, each participant is assigned a mentor to help guide us through project phase of the academy.

This year, Dr. Angela Spranger and Andrew Sanderbeck led us

through this intensive training process. Dr. Spranger focused on the concepts of self as a leader, serving the follower, and team building. She utilized both the Clifton StrengthsFinder 2.0 and a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to help the participants better understand our own strengths.

Dr. Spranger shared a number of suggestions for how to work with and lead others whose strengths and personality may differ from your own.

The insight she shared with us was meaningful, and while at times the sheer amount of information was overwhelming, Dr. Spranger made sure that we knew that the lines of communication would remain open to us in the days and weeks to come as we processed everything.

Two key pieces of insight that truly struck

me were:

1. Weakness fixing leads to mediocrity. Play to your strengths.
2. If teams have no ups and downs, they are dead. Conflict is a necessary part of the process.

Andrew Sanderbeck walked us through the learning project management process. He discussed each step of the process from concept through completion and introduced us to some useful tools along the way.

Personally, I walked away with three key pieces of insight that I feel will guide me through my own VALLA project:

1. Make sure you understand the parameters of the project. Do limit yourself by trying to adhere to rules that you created.
2. After creating a project timeline, add

VALLA, continued

30% to the projected timeline. Everything takes longer than you think it will.

3. When you get stuck (and you WILL get stuck), do not rely on others to rescue you.

I walked away from the VALLA with a better sense of myself both as a leader and as an individual.

I am more confident in my abilities to take on responsibility as I move forward in my

career, and I am excited to have a chance to better serve my library as I work through my own project. I would strongly encourage anyone who currently aspires to serve or who is currently serving in a leadership position to consider applying to attend the Virginia Library Associate Leadership Academy in the future.

The tools and insights shared with us and the chance to

collaborate closely with peers from across the state was invaluable.

A word of caution: come prepared to absorb a great deal of information in a very short period of time. Take the challenge! §



Image credit: VLA Online.

Educate, Advocate, Promote, Praise, Repeat

Early Bird Registration is now open. Log in to VLA to begin your online registration: <http://tinyurl.com/2016VLA>

Congratulations to VIVA's Open Textbook Network System and Campus Leaders!



Textbook and related costs are a well-known barrier to college affordability for students.

VIVA's Open Textbook Network System membership will allow VIVA to train open education library leaders who will hold workshops for faculty across the state to support them in making greater use of openly available educational materials, including textbooks, which are free of cost to students.

By promoting the use and creation of high quality educational materials that are free for students to use, this initiative will increase affordability in higher education, promote student success, and empower Virginia faculty to contribute to the growing field of open course materials.

Our three System Leaders – Olivia Reinauer (TCC), James Ghaphery (VCU), and Claudia

Holland (GMU) – will attend an intensive summer training institute at the University of Minnesota in August.

The larger group of Campus Leaders will be attending a full day of training in Virginia at James Madison University in October.

This is a wonderful opportunity for selected VIVA members to work across the state on an exciting open education initiative.



Here is the full list of participants:

- Crystal Newell, Piedmont Virginia Community College
- Dale Dulaney, Virginia Western Community College
- Heather Blicher, Northern Virginia Community College
- Joy Yaeger, Tidewater Community College
- Lynn Riggs, J. S. Reynolds Community College
- Matthew Pierce, Germanna Community College
- Nova Wright, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
- Olivia Reinauer, Tidewater Community College
- Yvonne Maute, New River Community College
- Bianca Spurlock, Richard Bland College
- Andrew Kulp, Shenandoah University
- Ann Knox, Union Presbyterian Seminary
- Brian Burns,

VIVA OTN Leaders, continued

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hampden-Sydney College | University of Mary Washington |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
- Hannah Lowder, Liberty University
 - Jennifer Ulrich, Eastern Mennonite University
 - Katie Glaeser, Sweet Briar College
 - Laurie Preston, Randolph-Macon College
 - Lucretia McCulley, University of Richmond
 - Mason Yang, Marymount University
 - Piper Cumbo, Roanoke College
 - Robin Takacs, Virginia Wesleyan College
 - Vickie Einselen, Bridgewater College
 - Arthur Fridrich, Virginia State University
 - Erin Wysong, Uni-
- Liz Thompson, James Madison University
 - Lynne Harrison, Norfolk State University
 - Claudia Holland, George Mason University
 - Dave Ghamandi, University of Virginia
 - Hillary Miller, Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Inga Haugen, Virginia Tech
 - James Ghaphery, Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Kathleen Delaurenti, College of William & Mary
 - Lucy Rush, Old Dominion University
- from the [VIVA Blog](#)



Photo credit: Adaptation of [Richmond, VA Skyline in Lights](#), Will Fisher, CC BY-SA.

Details at openedconference.org/2016/

